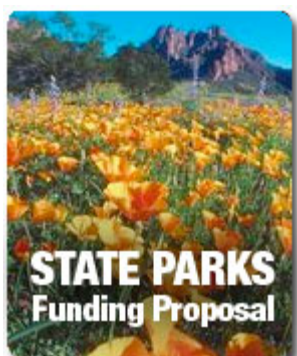




**June 18, 2008**



## ***Parks Access Pass: A Creative, Win-Win Budget Solution***

Our state parks are in crisis by any of a number of measures. In fact, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently placed our entire 278-park system among the [11 most-endangered places in the nation](#).

Whether it's a billion dollars in deferred maintenance, continuous weakening of operational support, the lack of money to staff new parks as California grows, or the basic inability to fund parks adequately in our annual budgets – we need a long-term solution.

Recently I proposed an annual \$10 surcharge on non-commercial California vehicle registrations in exchange for anyone in a vehicle with a California license plate getting in to state parks for free—known as the Parks Access Pass.

Earlier this year Governor Schwarzenegger proposed closing 48 state parks and beaches, causing a major public uproar. Following the governor's announcement, more people called my district office about this than any other budget issue.

In his revised May budget, the governor gave state parks a one-year reprieve, but he proposed paying for it with a park fee increase.

We need a long-term solution, not just year-to-year band-aids that leave the future of our park system in jeopardy, deny Californians access to land they've voted for three times in recent year to acquire as parklands, and jack up entrance fees.

That's why I stepped forward. As state budget talks turn to the subject of new revenues just to continue what we're already doing, this proposal is unique in

### ***Update— State Budget Crisis***

The annual work of the Budget Conference Committee is now underway, following the completion of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee process.

This morning, John gave an update at a Capitol press conference. Listen to his comments [here](#).

You can also listen to John's [audio comments](#) from the 6/12 start of the Conference Committee.

Following several days of hearings, the Conference Committee will produce a report, including the budget bill, for consideration by both houses of the Legislature. Approval of the final budget bill will require the support of two-thirds of each house.

#### ***More info:***

- Budget [Subcommittee Report](#).
- John's [op-ed](#) on education funding.
- State budget [current documents and background](#).
- How you can [get involved](#).

### ***Update— Laird LBAM Legislation***

**AB 2763**—Invasive Pest Planning Act of 2008

that it would give value to anyone who wants to use a state park in exchange for a long-term solution.

A private poll by the [State Parks Foundation](#) shows 74% of Californians support this proposal. And that support is translating into editorial backing for the proposal coming from the [Sacramento Bee](#), [The San Jose Mercury News](#), the [Vacaville Reporter](#), the [Fresno Bee](#), the [Merced Sun-Star](#), the [Contra Costa Times](#) and the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#).

To read the rest of this op-ed, please click [here](#). To gauge press reaction, [watch KTVU/Ch.2](#), or [listen to KPBS](#). For more information about the plan, please visit my Parks Proposal [Webpage](#). And you can [click here to endorse the plan](#) personally or as an organization.

*John Laird*



*John with CEO Daniel Emerson*

### **Monterey-based Light & Motion Named Small Business of the Year for Dedication to Environment, Sustainability**

#### **PRESS RELEASE:**

SACRAMENTO – [Assemblymember John Laird](#) (D-Santa Cruz) named Light & Motion, Monterey-based manufacturer of outdoor recreation products, as Small Business of the Year for the 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in association with California Small Business Day. The company was honored in Sacramento for their support for the community and dedication to addressing climate change through green business practices.

“As a very successful small business, [Light & Motion](#) is showing the way forward in developing sustainable business practices while also maintaining a commitment to our community,” said Assemblymember Laird. “I am especially proud to name Light & Motion as Small Business of the Year because of their stellar assistance during the 2007 San Francisco oil spill and their receipt of the state’s [Waste Reduction Award](#) for the last three years in a row.”

*Read the full [press release](#).*

***Fitness legend Jack LeLane visits the State Capitol***

**ACR 117**—Resolution calling on the state to address unanswered questions about the Light Brown Apple Moth eradication program.

*Both bills recently passed the Assembly and yesterday were approved in the Senate Agriculture Committee.*

*The bills will next be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.*

**Op-ed** by John.

Visit [John's LBAM Webpage](#) for more info on the Light Brown Apple Moth issue, including

- Latest press coverage
- LBAM bills in the Legislature
- Lawsuit information
- Correspondence, reports and other documents from state agencies, scientists and elected officials

### **Bill Spotlight— Water Conservation**

Following John's introduction of AB 2175 (jointly authored with [Assemblymember Feuer](#), D-West Hollywood), Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state-wide drought in California.

AB 2175 requires reductions in urban, suburban and agricultural water usage.

Supportive newspaper editorials:

[The San Jose Mercury News](#)

[Los Angeles Times](#)

[Sacramento Bee](#)

[More info on AB 2175.](#)

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**John poses with Mr. LeLane in the Assembly Chamber**

At 97 years old, fitness legend Jack LeLane addressed the State Assembly the day he was inducted into the California Hall of Fame. To learn more about Mr. LeLane and his visit to the Capitol, check out [Frank Russo's story on the California Progress Report](#).

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*If you're receiving this as a forwarded email and would like to receive regular Laird updates, please send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to [Assemblymember.Laird-newsletter@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Laird-newsletter@assembly.ca.gov). If you would prefer to not receive email updates, please respond with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.*

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